

SECOND UNITED STATES--JAPAN CONFERENCE ON  
CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERCHANGE

Washington, D.C. - October 16 - 22, 1963

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FINAL COMMUNIQUE

The Second U.S.-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange, enjoined by its predecessor to review progress, to identify new problems, and to assess future needs and opportunities, met in Washington from October 16 to October 22, 1963. Mindful that knowledge and understanding breed confidence and friendship, just as ignorance and misunderstanding generate fear and suspicion, the Conference sought new approaches to broadening the spectrum of cultural and educational exchanges between the two countries.

Many years ago, Dr. Inazo Nitobe spoke of building a cultural bridge across the Pacific. His metaphor was an apt one, for a bridge must be supported at each end; it must carry two-way traffic, and it facilitates primarily the movement of people. Cultural and educational exchanges must serve the needs of, and deserve the support of, both partners; otherwise, they are a failure.

Exchanges across the Pacific can have a vitalizing effect on the cultures of both countries. Exposure of one civilization to the culture of a vastly different one brings stimulation, variety and artistic creativity.

I. SURVEY OF PROGRESS SINCE LAST CONFERENCE

In accordance with its mandate, the Second Conference examined and discussed previously prepared papers which summarized recent developments, in the United States and Japan respectively, relevant to the six priority recommendations made by the First Conference.

The recommendations of both conferences carry the moral and intellectual weight of the groups which made them, but are not binding on the governments, private organizations and individuals to which they are addressed. The Second Conference was pleased to note the progress already achieved, especially in reference to the recommendations of the First Conference for new types of binational instrumentalities for support of educational and cultural interchange, for increased emphasis on exchange in the arts, and for new efforts to augment the transmission of Japanese thought and scholarly research findings through translation. Significant progress has been made in the teaching of English and Japanese, and in the broader field of American and Japanese studies.

The recommendations of the First Conference remain valid, and the Second Conference commends them to the continuing attention and concern of all persons and agencies working for the improvement of cultural relations between Japan and the United States.

The four topics chosen for the Agenda of the Second Conference were all derived from the recommendations of the First Conference. These topics were: exchange of educational and cultural television programs; translations and abstracts of Japanese thought and scholarly research; American studies in Japan and Japanese studies in America; and exchanges in the performing arts. The preparatory meetings which have been held in the two countries during recent months, the cooperation of larger numbers of cultural leaders which these meetings have elicited, and their findings and recommendations have proved to be among the most useful and important results of the initial meeting in January 1962.

## II. EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL TELEVISION

The Conference recognized the great importance of an open and free exchange of television programs as one of the most effective means for bringing about mutual understanding between the peoples of Japan and the United States. The two countries lead the world in the size of their television audiences; both achieve nation-wide coverage through well-developed stations and networks; both countries have had considerable experience in programming. At the same time, exchanges of quality television programs between the two countries can be made far more effective.

Certain obstacles retard increased exchange of television programs. Most serious is the fact that at this juncture neither country is fully aware of the program resources of the other. Problems arise in connection with customs clearance and copyright, residual rights, payment of royalties, and the editing, dubbing and sub-titling of programs intended for exchange. Exchange of television personnel and research findings is inadequate. Lastly, there is at present no systematic way whereby exchange material can be located and placed in distribution in the respective countries. These problems are not insurmountable.

Both the preparatory committees of experts, Japanese and American, have strongly recommended, in almost identical terms, the establishment in the two countries of clearinghouses or centers dedicated to the solution of the foregoing problems and to the promotion of a more extensive, valuable, and reciprocal exchange in this important field. Those most familiar with the problems of television both on the preparatory committees and in this conference have expressed confidence that, with effort on both sides, such clearinghouses can be established at an early date.

The Conference,...

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The Conference, convinced both of the need for increased exchange of television programs and of the efficacy of this proposed effort, unanimously and enthusiastically concurred in the recommendation that clearing houses for the exchange of educational and cultural television programs be established in Japan and in the United States. To this end the Conference recommended that working committees of educators and of commercial and non-commercial broadcasters be formed in the two countries at the earliest possible date in order that preparations may be made for a joint meeting not later than April 1964, possibly on the occasion of the meeting in Tokyo of the European Broadcasting Union, to agree on specific plans and their implementation.

### III. TRANSLATIONS AND ABSTRACTS

A large part of Japanese culture is created and transmitted through writing, and can be made widely available outside Japan only through translation. The hard, and frequently unrewarded, work of the translator deserves greater appreciation by both scholars and the general public. The number of translations that can be published commercially will increase as interest in Japan continues to grow, but will never be adequate to meet the needs of Japan to be understood and of the United States to learn from Japanese thought. Public and philanthropic assistance to increase the volume and quality of translations from Japanese to English is needed in both countries.

The principal problems encountered in providing translations and abstracts of Japanese thought to Americans result primarily from lack of preliminary communication and coordination of effort. Close and continuing consultation within and between both countries, and by all concerned agencies, is needed in the choice of fields and in the selection of items to be translated, in the ensuring of high quality in the translations, in arrangements for publication and distribution, and in evaluation of results.

The Conference warmly endorsed the proposal of the joint preparatory committee that a clearinghouse be established in Japan to encourage more translation of Japanese works and to make Japanese efforts more effective.

At the same time, all agreed that such a center should work in close consultation with American agencies and the Conference urged cooperation by American individuals and institution concerned. It recognized the desirability of having a single organization, such as the Association for Asian Studies, to accept primary and ongoing responsibility for liaison with the Japanese clearing house.

The efforts of several organizations such as the East-West Center and the Association of American University Presses to support translation were particularly commended.

### IV. AMERICAN AND



#### IV. AMERICAN AND JAPANESE STUDIES

Where relations between countries are of unusual importance, as they are between Japan and the United States, we cannot, without inquiry into each other's essential cultural elements, have the means for sound and independent judgement. For this reason, the Second Conference, like the First stressed the need for a strong and varied development of Japanese studies in America and American studies in Japan.

The basic difficulties of Japanese studies in America and American studies in Japan are alike: language learning, which is difficult without the help of native speaking teachers; introducing area studies into institutions with over-specialized disciplines; securing public and private support; financing and arranging travel to the country studied; acquisition and organization of necessary research materials; and obtaining the cooperation of scholars of the country studied.

These are common problems, but they appear in different forms or phases in the two countries. Consequently, while both Japanese and American delegates aimed at parallel developments and a reciprocal exchange, concrete proposals for the two countries were somewhat different.

It was agreed that for Japan the most critical need at the present time is for an American Studies Institute which could provide to teachers and scholars research facilities, a common meeting place, and necessary financial and moral encouragement.

In the United States, on the other hand, a number of university programs for Japanese studies already exist. However, the Conference stressed the need for closer cooperation with Japanese scholars, particularly in joint research, and for a more adequate supply of research materials from Japan.

#### V. THE PERFORMING ARTS

One of the richest areas of culture in Japan is in the performing arts. An essential and significant aspect of cultural interchange between Japan and the United States, therefore, is in this area.

There are three major objectives which are served by exchange in the performing arts: stimulus to creative work, meaningful person-to-person contact and broadening opportunities for the general public to be exposed to these arts. It was the consensus of the Conference that stimulus to creative work has the greatest long-term significance and should be given priority in the development of exchange programs.

In the development of fruitful relationships between creative work in the performing arts in Japan and the United States many steps are required: actual exchange of performing groups, exchange of individuals, exchange of scripts, books, recordings, scores, translations, and exhibitions, productions in one country of works originating in the other and cooperative productions. The Conference recommended that in order to obtain the best

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results from the limited resources available, all these methods should be used in appropriate proportions by those groups in a position to aid exchange in the performing arts.

Since funds are limited, it is important to remove barriers which make exchange difficult: complicated copyright arrangements, taxes, and special situations in both countries in the fields of organization of concert tours, publicity, reviews, and audience attraction. If any of these difficulties can be lessened or eliminated, the economic possibilities for performing groups will be improved; the number which can be exchanged will increase; and the funds available will achieve greater results. The Conference recommended that surveys of these problems be undertaken in both countries with a view to clarifying the present situation and developing practical remedies.

The Conference strongly commended to all interested agencies the papers prepared by the two preparatory committees on the performing arts.

## VI. THE NEXT CONFERENCE

The Conference agreed that continued consultations concerning cultural and educational exchange are of high value to both countries and recommended that there be held in Japan in approximately two years a Third Conference to review progress and to identify new problems. It was further suggested that the Third Conference agenda include discussions on exchange of persons; the visual arts; language training; and organizational relationships such as binational societies, and sister-city and university-to-university affiliations.

Meanwhile, the Conference urged the preparatory committees which were established in preparation for the Second Conference to continue their efforts and both governments to take all possible steps, including financial and administrative measures, in conjunction with appropriate private organizations, to carry out the Conference recommendations.

The Conference further urged that arrangements be made for the necessary preparatory meetings and a progress report for the Third Conference.

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